



## Press Release

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### Radio Gear Increases Fire Department's Efficiency

Communication within the Gatlinburg Fire Department has been enhanced with the acquisition of new radio communications equipment.

Funded by a \$155,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 25 mobile radios for ambulances and fire trucks and 50 portable radios for individual firefighters are now in use.

"The new system includes additional repeaters within the City and greatly enhances emergency communication over our previous system," said Fire Chief Greg Miller. "The new equipment is a welcome addition to our Department."

The new digital trunking system conforms to new Federal Communication Commission requirements related to narrow banding on public safety communication channels.

Land mobile radio (LMR) systems utilized by municipal government have used 25 kHz-wide blocks of radio spectrum or channels. Mandated in December 2004 by the FCC, any non-federal LMR that is operating below 512 MHz must make the move to 12.5 kHz narrowband voice channels and more efficient data channels by January 1, 2013.

"We're ahead of the curve," said Miller. "We are thankful for the FEMA grant to get this system in place."

Reducing channel width to 12.5 kHz narrowband and at the same time taking advantage of new technology allows more channels to exist within the same spectrum.